

determine the fate and future of the steel industry. There is a March 6 deadline for a remedying decision, the tariff decision. The President has the authority. We want him now to have the will. We want him to impose this 40-percent tariff, give American steel mills a future and, most of all, protect the United States of America against dependence on foreign steel. Steel built our Nation; steel will continue to build our Nation, and most of all, steel will help us protect our Nation. Steel built America and it is now time that we stand up for steel. I hope we can count on the President to do this, and we thank him for the work he has already done.

I yield the floor and look forward to standing with the Presiding Officer as we stand up for steel.

Mr. REID. Madam President, before the Senator leaves the floor, I want to say that she is a leader on this issue. I told her privately yesterday that whenever she pointed me to help steel, I would be there. I also say it is not often that you find a Senator who works as hard privately as publicly. I have been in a number of private meetings with the Senator from Maryland, where she has been a staunch vocal advocate of doing something to help the steelworkers and the steel industry of this country.

The people of Maryland should understand the advocacy of this giant from Maryland who is working so hard for the people who have been so good to America—the steelworkers and the steel industry, generally.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Nevada for those gracious and complimentary remarks. This is a man from Searchlight, NV. He knows what hard work is because of the way he pulled himself up by the bootstraps, and he has given opportunity to other people. All those people working in the mines in Nevada, who every day have those calloused hands in the end, have a very strong advocate in him. We have to stand up for the ordinary people who do extraordinary things in our country. I look forward to working with the Senator.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam president, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until the hour of 3 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE WIND ENERGY PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT SHOULD BE EXTENDED

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, about a week ago I spoke briefly on a subject that falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee and that is referred to as the extenders. This term does not mean much to people, but the extenders are tax provisions that expire at certain times. For example, at the end of last year one of the tax provisions that expired was the wind energy production tax credit. It is a tax credit that was in law to stimulate the development of wind energy in our country.

That tax credit expired on December 31 and, at that moment, the development pretty well stopped because the expectation was that the credit would be extended, but it has not been extended. This credit is one of a handful of extenders that should have been extended at the end of last year. The Congress did not do it, because it got connected to the issue of the economic recovery package, and it went back and forth between the House and the Senate.

The fact is, at the end of the day, this tax provision expired and wind energy development has pretty well stopped around the country. By "wind energy development," I mean those developments that were on the books with plans underway, and ready to be financed and installed across the country.

What does this wind energy mean? We are going to take up an energy bill as soon as we figure out what to do with the filibuster on the election reform bill, and when we talk about the energy bill in this country we talk about the need to produce additional energy: more oil, more natural gas, more coal. Yes, we are going to produce more by digging and drilling, and do that in an environmentally acceptable way. But limitless and renewable sources of energy such as ethanol, biodiesel, wind energy, and others, are also a very important part of what we ought to be doing in this country.

Let me focus for a moment on wind energy, because I come from a State in which wind energy has great potential. The Department of Energy ranks the States and their potential for wind energy, and North Dakota ranks No. 1. We are called the Saudi Arabia of wind for its energy potential.

North Dakota is a lot of things. Most of all, it is wonderful. It ranks 50th, dead last, in native forest lands. That means we have less trees than anybody else. But we have a ranking of No. 1 in wind and the ability to take the energy from the wind, put it in transmission lines, and move it around our country to extend America's energy supply.

I held a wind energy conference in Grand Forks, ND, last week. Over 700 people came to the conference from all over the country. They had a display of a couple of the types of blades used in the new, very large turbines. One of these blades weighs 18,000 pounds.

This new technology is highly efficient and, with the small production tax credit, is also very competitive. We have brought the price of wind energy way down, and now if we extend this wind energy tax credit for 5 years, we will be able to unleash the opportunities in wind energy development.

A CEO of a company came to see me about 2 weeks ago and said his company has 150 megawatts of wind-generated electricity on the books and prepared to build in North Dakota. He told me the company has the money for it, \$130 million to \$150 million, the plans complete, but that it cannot move forward until the company knows whether Congress is going to extend the wind energy production tax credit.

The fact is, the Congress is messing around back and forth, stuttering, and not getting it done. This back and forth between the House and the Senate means the extenders did not get finished.

What does that mean? It means companies that were preparing investments and were going to be able to build wind energy facilities across this country have now put these plans on hold.

Does that make sense for the country? Is that a good energy strategy? I do not think so.

I am going to be asking unanimous consent, and I will not do it at the moment because I wanted to provide notice to others in the Chamber as a matter of courtesy, but I will ask either later today or tomorrow, unanimous consent to take up the legislation that I have previously introduced, S. 94. It provides a 5-year extension of the tax credit for electricity produced from wind. I will ask that it be discharged from the Senate Finance Committee and be brought to the floor and voted on.

This is not controversial. We have done this before. We should have done it last December but did not. It does not require a big debate. We have had debate after debate on this. It is widely supported by virtually the entire Senate and the entire House, but it does not get done. It is one of these things that runs off the ditch and gets stuck there, and nobody thinks much about it.

The problem is we are not producing the energy we could be producing, because these projects are not being built. As we get people in the Senate who ring their hands and gnash their teeth and wipe their brow about America's energy problems, I want everybody to understand that part of the solution—just part—to that problem is to build these projects that are ready to go, that can produce and create these new highly efficient wind energy turbines, that can put electricity in our transmission lines and move it around the country.

Does anybody remember California and the price spikes, some of the other problems we have experienced with energy supply? The fact is, this country needs this new form of energy.